

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 remain in this application. Claim 28 was previously canceled. New claims 29-30 have been added. The specification and claims 1-27 have been amended. Support for the amendments and the new claims can be found in the specification, for example, at page 14 line 17 to page 15 line 2, at page 16 lines 13-17, and at page 17 lines 21-26. Thus, no new matter has been added.

Beginning at page 2, the Office Action rejects claims 1-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as failing to set forth the subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention. Applicants traverse the rejection. Amended claims 1-27 respond to the stated reasons for the rejection. Amended claims 1-27, as well as new claims 29 and 30, satisfy the requirements of the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

In further regard to claims 18, 19, and 20, the Office Action requests that the subscripts of the terms C12A7, C3A, and C4A3\$ should be corrected to provide subscripts. Applicants respectfully traverse this portion of the rejection. Cement chemists use abbreviated nomenclature based oxides of various elements to indicate chemical formulae of relevant species, i.e., C=CaO, S=SiO₂, A=Al₂O₃, and F=Fe₂O₃.

Calcium aluminates are combinations of aluminum oxide Al₂O₃, represented by an A in the cement nomenclature, and of calcium oxide CAO, represented by C in this same notation. These

oxides can be crystallized, particularly under the C3A, C12A7 and CA forms (see, page 2, lines 31-34, of the specification). Furthermore, the term "\$" represents SO₃ in the cement nomenclature (see, page 8, lines 3-6, of the specification). According to the cement nomenclature, one does not use subscripts to define the mineralogical phases. For example, the mineralogical phase (12CaO•7Al₂O₃) is abbreviated in the cement nomenclature C12A7, and not Cl₂A₇. Therefore, the notation without subscripts is correct and would be clear to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Amended claims 1-27 also provide additional changes to more closely conform to standard U.S. practice. For example, the phrase "characterized in that" has been removed in favor of "wherein" terminology.

In the specification, the term "semi-hydrates" was amended to the term "hemihydrates" at page 17 and page 19.

The amendment also includes an amended Abstract that includes corresponding changes as those stated as the basis of the rejection.

Applicants believe that this amendment fully responds to the pending Office Action. Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The fee of \$104.00 for the two extra dependent claims is being paid online simultaneously herewith by credit card.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

/H. James Voeller/
H. James Voeller, Reg. No. 48,015
Customer No. 00466
209 Madison Street, Suite 500
Alexandria, VA 22314
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

HJV/jr

APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following item(s):

☒ - a new or amended Abstract of the Disclosure